

Dulles Defends Involvement With Student Association

By The Associated Press
CPYRGHT WASHINGTON

The man in charge of the Central Intelligence Agency during much of the time it secretly financed the National Student Association thinks—from a national security viewpoint—it was a good deal.

"We obtained what we wanted," Allen W. Dulles said Thursday in an interview.

DULLES, who headed the CIA from 1953 to 1961, said he found the link with the student organization already forged when he took over, and would not discuss any details of how the relationship worked.

But on the broad question of what the CIA got for the \$200,000 a year it slipped to the NSA for more than a decade through private foundations, he was willing to talk in generalities.

"If you studied the student conference movement abroad during those years of the early '50's," he said, "you would find that the Communists were making very effective use of them."

"THE CONFERENCES had great propa-

ganda value for them and were influencing the youth in the United States as well as in other countries."

Once NSA-sponsored representatives started attending these conferences, expounding and defending the United States' point of view, the picture changed, said Dulles.

"The Soviets had to retreat in this area," he said.

Dulles' remarks, and the whole nature of the CIA-NSA relationship as it has become known in the last few days, imply that the NSA representatives at the international conferences were carefully selected and certain to take an anti-Communist position.

WERE THEY CIA agents? Were they screened or selected by the CIA? At this point no one is saying.

Richard Stearns, the NSA vice-president for international affairs, says the CIA did not pick the representatives, or insist that they meet any ideological standards. The representatives, usually US students in schools abroad, were picked by the president and international vice-president of the NSA, Stearns said.

It may be only coincidental that these two officers were generally the only ones who knew of the undercover arrangement with the CIA.

There have been reports from some NSA members that delegates to the overseas conferences brought back information about Communist youth activities which was turned over to the CIA.

BUT EVEN with this, the explanations given by Stearns, the State Department, and Dulles leave unanswered the question of why it would cost \$200,000 a year to supply a handful of representatives for a few brief conferences held at intervals of several years.

Also unanswered was the question of possible CIA support of NSA civil rights activities.

A National Student Association leader said Thursday no CIA funds were used to finance the youth group's extensive civil rights activities in the South.

Jim Johnson, who as NSA national affairs vice-president last year directed all the group's domestic programs, had a quick, firm "no" when a newsman asked about the possibility that the CIA wittingly had helped support NSA's civil rights projects.

BUT JOHNSON ADDED: "I had no knowledge of that CIA-NSA relationships whatsoever" until a few weeks ago.

When the State Department acknowledged Tuesday that the government's chief espionage arm had been subsidizing NSA, it specifically said the support was for "international activities."

Shaul, who was NSA president in 1962-63, said CIA financing helped send American students overseas with fewer restrictions than they would have had under outright government sponsorship. Shaul, 28, now an Akron, lawyer, said the students sent abroad with CIA aid had no knowledge of the source of the funds and thus "were in fact free agents."